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PATTERN OF CONFERENCES

Report of the Fifth Committee (Part II)

Rapporteur: Mr. Ihor V. HUMENNY (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 118 appears in the report of the Committee contained in document A/51/742.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 72nd and 74th meetings, on 8 and 12 September 1997. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/51/SR.72 and 74).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on access to the optical disk system (A/C.5/51/56).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.5/51/L.87

4. At the 74th meeting, on 12 September, the Vice-Chairman of the Fifth Committee introduced a draft resolution entitled "Pattern of conferences" (A/C.5/51/L.87), submitted on the basis of informal consultations.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/51/L.87 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIFTH COMMITTEE

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 51/211 C of 18 December 1996 on the pattern of conferences,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on access to the optical disk system,[1]

Taking into account that only publicly available official documents, publications and public texts of the United Nations are stored in the optical disk system,

Noting with appreciation the ongoing efforts to improve access to the optical disk system,

1. Encourages the Secretary-General to develop a policy for the further expansion of the optical disk system of the United Nations, including provisions for making it available on a fee-for-service basis to any interested party, on the understanding that access will continue to be provided free of charge to permanent and observer missions and other government offices of Member States, with a maximum of ten access passwords for each Member State, as well as provisions for making it available to all staff of the Secretariat;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, in developing such a policy, to take into account the special needs of developing countries and of other special groups of potential users;

3. Calls upon the Secretary-General to ensure that the ease of access to and the flow of information from the optical disk system to end-users, especially in capitals, is both continuous and uninterrupted;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to continue work on providing access to the optical disk system in the six official languages of the United Nations on an equal basis;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on that policy to the General Assembly for consideration at its fifty-second session.

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[1] A/C.5/51/56.